

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/632,214

Examiner

Taghi T. Arani

Applicant(s)

CANNON ET AL.

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/21/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10 and 20-31.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Taghi T. Arani
Primary Examiner
Aug 21 2006
Taghi T. Arani
2118166

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35 U.S. Code not included in this section can be found in the prior office action.
2. The prior office actions are incorporated herein by reference. In particular, the observations with respect to claim language, and response to previously presented arguments.
3. Claim 11-19 have been cancelled.
4. Claims 1, 20, 25, 26 and 31 have been amended.
5. Claims 1-10, 20-31, now re-numbered as claims 1-22 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

6. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William H. Bollman on July 7, 2006. Claims 1, 20, 25, 26 and 31 have been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling a facsimile transmission of confidential information comprising:

a comparison unit adapted to compare, at a near end, a near end password with a far end password entered after communications between a near end fax and a far-end fax have begun, said far end password not pre-registered before communications between said near end fax and said far-end fax have begun; and

a transmission unit adapted to allow transmission of confidential information to a ~~far end~~ far-end fax if said near end comparison of said near end password with said far end password results in a match.

Art Unit: 2131

20. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling facsimile transmission of confidential information, comprising:

comparing, at a near end, a near end password with a far end password entered after communications between a near end fax and a far-end fax have begun, said far end password not pre-registered before communications between said near end fax and said far-end fax have begun; and

authorizing transmission of confidential information from said near end fax to said ~~far-end~~ far-end fax if said comparison results in a match.

25. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

generating a distribution request signal to prompt a user at said ~~far-end~~ far-end fax to enter distribution instructions.

26. (Currently amended) A method for controlling facsimile transmission of confidential information, comprising:

comparing, at a near end, a near end password with a far end password entered after communications between a near end fax and a far-end fax have begun, said far end password not pre-registered before communications between said near end fax and said far-end fax have begun; and

encrypting said facsimile; and

authorizing transmission of confidential information from said near end fax to said ~~far-end~~ far-end fax if said comparison results in a match.

31. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 30, further comprising:

generating a distribution signal to prompt a user at said ~~far-end~~ far-end fax to enter distribution instructions.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 6/21/2006 in view of the above Examiner's Amendment have been fully considered and they are persuasive.

Allowable Subject matter

8. Claims 1-10, 20-31 are allowed over prior art of record.

Examiner's Reasons for Allowance

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

Newly amended independent claims 1, 20, and 26 are allowed in view of the amendment and for reasons argued by applicant in pages 7-8 of the Remarks, filed 6/21/2006, where Tadayuki reference relies on a password that is pre-registered beforehand in both a transmitting side and a receiving side. Prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a system and method of facsimile that rely on a password that is entered after communications have begun and not pre-registered as claimed in independent claims 1, 20 and 26 in combination with other features as recited. Dependent claims 2-10, 21-25 and 27-31 depend upon one of the above-mentioned allowed claims and are therefore allowed for the same reason as discussed above regarding claims 1, 20 and 26, respectively.

None of the prior art of record, either taken by itself or in any combination, would have anticipated or made obvious the invention of the present application at or before the time it was filed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 2131

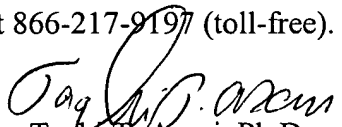
fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Taghi T. Arani whose telephone number is (571) 272-3787. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30 Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Taghi T. Arani, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2131
7/18/2006